

2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Request for Proposals and Fellowship Guidelines

I. Eligibility and Expectations

Applications for the 2024 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows (SURF) program must be ~~written and submitted online~~ ~~written and submitted online~~ to have completed the relevant course work (determined by the supervising faculty member) or have relevant experience in order to complete the work proposed in the SURF application. As part of this program, students will be asked to take assessments that will enable OURL to monitor the program's effectiveness and will also be asked to participate in educational activities, including workshops. Students must commit to attending professional development seminars, completing the project outlined in the SURF proposal, and to present their work at an appropriate discipline specific conference or exhibition or submit a paper for a scholarship to an appropriate peer-reviewed outlet upon completion of the project. Students must not enroll in classes during the time that they are participating in the SURF (Summer sessions I and II).

II. Timeline

February 9: Application Due

March 15: Awards Announced

May 20 – August 10: SURF Fellowship

August 30: SURF Symposium

III. Goals and Outcomes

- The SURF program is a full-time, paid summer internship program that provides undergraduates with training and mentoring in the conduct of research, presentation skills, and prepares them for applying to graduate or professional school.
- SURF students will have a faculty-mentored, in-depth research or creative inquiry experience that trains them in 1) hypothesis or problem-based framing of a project; 2) skills and technologies used to complete the project; 3) implementation of the project with data collection and data analysis; and/or 4) creation of a work of art and exhibiting it to the public; and 5) dissemination of the results of the project to the community.
- Student learning objectives for the SURF program are:
 - Improvement of critical thinking skills.
 - Improved communication abilities in writing skills.
 - Improved communication abilities in public speaking/presentation skills.
 - Attainment of practical skills related to the field of inquiry, including information/reference searching, quantitative literacy, creative thinking, and problem solving relative to projects and performance standards.
- A final goal of the SURF program is to enable students to present their research or project at: 1) a discipline-specific conference at state levels or higher, or 2) generalized and academic conferences at the regional level or higher.

IV. Evaluation

The SURF proposal will be evaluated by the URI faculty standing committee. The Committee seeks applications that clearly describe how the student will develop as a scholar through participation in the project and through faculty mentorship. The committee also values projects that will likely make an original intellectual or creative contribution to the field/discipline. The number of grants available will depend on the number of submissions and yearly budget. Therefore, this will be a merit-based

The criteria used to evaluate research-oriented applications will include the following:

- There is a clear description of how the faculty member(s) will mentor the student so that s/he will grow as a scholar.
- The project is driven by a clear question (i.e., addresses a gap in the literature).
- The design of the project will allow the student to answer the research question developed in the introduction.
- The project is based on a sufficient amount of supporting evidence.
- The project is innovative and creative (i.e. the project adds an original intellectual or creative contribution to the field/discipline or practices in the discipline).
- There is a match between the goals and outcomes expressed by the student in his/her letter of interest and the project description in the grant application.
- The overall strategy and methodology are well reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project.
- The proposal is formatted according to the SURF guidelines and application.

The criteria to be used to evaluate creative works applications will include the following:

- There is a clear description of how the faculty member(s) will mentor the student so that s/he will grow as a scholar.
- There is a clear question that the student will use as a framework in creation of the work.
- The proposed creative works project is significant and the contribution the proposed project will make to the arts and humanities is clear and convincing.
- There is a match between the goals and outcomes expressed by the student in his/her letter of interest and the project description in the grant application.

a. : (250 words) In a few sentences, please explain this project to someone outside your discipline.

proposed to support the student and/or faculty.

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over the summer to talk about their progress with other students. Students are also expected to write two social media posts during the summer describing their project and progress and submit these to OURI. In addition, students are expected to complete the requirements outlined below.

- 1) **Presentation at the SURF Symposium (August 30):** Students will summarize their research question and accomplishments for the University community at the SURF Symposium, which is held during the first week of classes during the fall semester. These presentations may be in a poster format or in the form of an oral presentation. This event is part of the Week of Welcome for new students.
- 2) **Final report /Accomplishments (September 6):** This document should identify the major